

## SOUTHEAST HERRING CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



Sitka, Alaska 99835

### **Timeline of Sitka herring conservation and management actions**

- 1977- Limited entry established.
- 1978- Acoustical estimate adjusted down due to high numbers of age 2 & 3 herring.
- 1981- Spawn deposition estimate calculated by miles of spawn and 500 tons per mile conversion.
- 1982- Dive survey for spawn estimate used for biomass.
- 1983- Threshold of 7,500 tons and 10%-20% harvest rate in effect.
- 1993- Sitka pulp mill closed (operated from 1959 to 1993).
- 1994- First year ASA model used to forecast biomass.
- 1997- Raised threshold to hold a fishery from 7,500 tons to 20,000 tons ('97) to 25,000 tons (2010) even as herring stock biomass increased (see ADF&G RC3, tab 20). *Board of Fish actions.*
- 2002- MOU signed with STA & ADF&G – attempt to cooperate with STA on openings.
- 2002- Discussion with STA about Equal Split fishery, from STA's point of view Equal Split was desirable.
- 2002- New management plan for harvest dispersal.
- 2008-2010 – Herring permit holders, others in the industry, and members of the community of Sitka developed a cooperative program to provide supplemental harvest of herring eggs to communities in Southeast to help ensure that subsistence needs are met. The harvest was primarily conducted by Alaska Native fishermen.**
- 2009- ADF&G & STA MOU cancelled due to lack of cooperation.
- 2012- Closure of "Core Area" (10 sq. mi.). *Board of Fish action.*
- 2012 – 2018 Industry resumes eggs on branch harvest program to ensure subsistence needs are met.**
- 2015- Closure of Makhnati Island area. *Federal Subsistence Board action.*
- 2015- Fishery closed without harvesting the full commercial quota to assist in meeting subsistence needs. *Department action, at request of industry.*
- 2018- Closure area expanded to 16.5 sq. mi. *Board of Fish action.*
- 2018- Commercial herring opponents submitted ACR 10 to close the Sitka sac roe fishery (failed 1-6). *Board of Fish action.***
- 2018 – STA filed a lawsuit against the State and its agencies the Board of Fisheries and ADF&G alleging three board claims for relief: that the Board and ADF&G had acted in violation of the subsistence priority statute, AS 16.05.258; had violated the Common Use and Sustained Yield Clauses in Article VIII, Sections 3 and 4 of the Alaska Constitution; and had violated the Administrative Procedures Act, AS 44.62. SHCA intervened in the case on the State's side.
- 2019– Every herring permit holder receives a letter from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) calling for a cease and desist of efforts to supply herring eggs on branches to communities.** In response, SHCA suspends supplemental herring egg harvest program conducted by Alaska Native permit holders.
- 2019- STA ACR 4 to reduce GHL for Sitka sac roe (failed 0-7). *Board of Fish action.***
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- Co-op fishery years (all or part of GHL taken as co-op): 1979, 1988, 1991, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2015, 2021*